

1. Name: Willson Store

2. Planning Area/Site Number: 13/10/4 3. M-NCPPC Atlas Reference: Map 7  
Clarksburg H.D. A-4

4. Address: 23341 Frederick Road, Clarksburg

## 5. Classification Summary

Category	<u>building</u>	Previous Survey Recording	<u>M-NCPPC</u>
Ownership	<u>private</u>	Title and Date:	<u>1976 Inventory of</u>
Public Acquisition	<u>N/A</u>		<u>Historical Sites</u>
Status	<u>unoccupied</u>	Federal	<u>State</u> <u>x</u> <u>County</u> <u>x</u> <u>Local</u>
Accessible	<u>no</u>		
Present use	<u>other: storage</u>		

6. Date: c. 1842

7. Original Owner: William Willson?

## 8. Apparent Condition

a. fair b. altered c. original site

9. Description: This four bay by three bay, two-and-a-half story frame store faces southwest. The building has a combination of red novelty siding and clapboarding. The southwest front porch has a shed roof supported by five metal poles. Two glass and wooded paneled doors lead into the store from this porch. There is a variety of six-over-six, four-over-four, and two-over-two double hung-windows. The store appears to have been built in two sections. The northwest section is two stories and has a flat roof, the southeast section is two-and-a-half stories and has a gable roof.

10. Significance: The Willson store was owned by members of the Willson family for over 130 years, serving as trading post, information center and social gathering place for generations of Clarksburg residents.

John Clark established a trading post in the 1770s on the main road leading from Georgetown to Frederick. At his death in 1803 he left both his store and house to his daughter Mary and her husband William Willson. Willson probably constructed this building. Willson operated the store until his retirement in the 1840s when his son Leonidas took over. By the 1870s the store had attracted other commercial operations, and the town became a merchandising center for the upper County. The store was the community center, selling goods, housing the post office, and serving as meeting place. In 1893 the heirs sold the property to Sarah I. Sellman. It was sold to the Prices in 1814, and to Lewises in 1921. Ceasing operations in 1970, it is now used for storage.

1. Researcher and date researched: Kevin J. Parker-9/79 Candy Reed Arch. Description

12. Compiler: Gail Rothrock

13. Date Compiled: 10/79

14. Designation  
Approval

15. Acreage: .294 acres

# MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

M: 13/10/4  
Clarksburg HD  
Mag1 #

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

### 1 NAME

HISTORIC

Willson Store

AND/OR COMMON

### 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

23341 Frederick Road

CITY, TOWN

Clarksburg

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

8

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Montgomery

### 3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES, RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES, UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER storage

### 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Roy M. & Patricia Bradley

Telephone #: 977-1704

STREET & NUMBER

228 W. Deer Park Drive

CITY, TOWN

Gaithersburg

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 20760

### 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Montgomery County Courthouse

Liber #: 4141

Folio #: 830

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

STATE

Maryland

### 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

MNCPPC Inventory of Historical Sites

DATE

1976

—FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☒ COUNTY —LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Park Historian's Office

CITY, TOWN

Derwood

STATE

Maryland 20855

**7 DESCRIPTION**

M.13-10-4

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

---

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

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This four bay by three bay two-and-a-half story frame store faces southwest on Frederick Road.

Built on fieldstone foundations, the store has red novelty siding on the southwest, southeast, east, and one half of the northeast elevation; red clapboarding on the north one half of the northeast elevation and the northwest elevation.

The southwest (front) porch has a shed roof which is supported by five metal poles. The southwest elevation has two glass and wooden paneled doors at the south and west ends of the building. The northwest elevation has a wooden paneled door.

There are several different windows used in this store. The first level of southwest elevation and the second level of the northwest elevation have two-over-two double-hung windows. The first level of the northwest and northeast elevations have six-over-six double-hung windows. On the northeast elevation, at the east corner, two of the windows are boarded up. On the southeast elevation there are no windows at the first level and six-over-six double-hung windows at the second level. At the southwest gable there is a gothic window. This window and the second level southwest windows are four-over-four double-hung.

The southeast section of the store is two-and-a-half stories in height and has a gable roof. The northwest section of the store is two stories in height and has a flat roof. Both gable and flat roofs are covered by raised seam metal. There is a boxed and returned cornice line.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Local History	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1842

BUILDER/ARCHITECT William Willson (?)

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Willson store is significant for its associations with the mercantile and social history of Clarksburg. Owned by members of the Willson family for over 130 years, the store served as a trading post, information center, post office and social gathering place for generations of Clarksburg residents.

The story of the Willson store reaches back into the 18th century, John Clark, a native of Pennsylvania, came to what was then Frederick County in the 1770s and established a trading post at what was later to become the center of Clarksburg. The site was on the main trail leading from Georgetown to Frederick and already boasted the presence of one tavern.<sup>1</sup>

Neither of Clark's sons remained in the area and in his will dated 1803 he left both his store and home to his daughter Mary and her husband, William Willson.<sup>2</sup> The store was to remain in the Willson family until into the 20th century.<sup>3</sup>

William Willson operated the establishment until his retirement in the 1840s when his son, Leonidas, took control.<sup>4</sup> During the 1870s Leonidas' sister became a partner in the firm with her son, Willie Neel assisting his uncle.<sup>5</sup> By this time two other mercantile establishments had come to Clarksburg, which together with the Willson store helped to make the town a merchandising center for the upper county.

During this era, the store acted as an anchor in the community. Not only did it sell goods to local farmers, but it housed the post office and was the scene of lively political discussions during election time. According to a local resident, in 1894 "General" Jacob Coxey, during his march through the county to Washington with his "army" of the unemployed, stopped in Clarksburg to give a speech from the porch of the store. One of the residents of Clarksburg, Raymond King, acquired the nickname of "Coxey" at this time because of his friendship with the "General".<sup>6</sup>

In 1893 the heirs of Mary Willson Waters sold their interest in the store to the oldest sister, Sarah I. Sellman<sup>7</sup> who in turn sold the property to Levi and Mary Price.<sup>8</sup> The store changed hands again in 1921, going to the Lewis family.<sup>9</sup> The store finally ceased operations in 1970, when it was known as "Lewis and Linthicum".<sup>10</sup>

In that year it was purchased by its present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Bradley, who since then have used it for storage. Mrs. Bradley has indicated they may turn the building into an antique shop.

The Willson store appears to be very old. Because the Willson family owned so much property in Clarksburg, however, it is difficult to pinpoint any exact construction date. The 1793 tax assessments for Clarksburg list John Clark as owning one lot of "1/6 acre" and worth \$99.<sup>11</sup> This indicates

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

(continued on Attachment Sheet A)

Interviews: Mrs. Doody Burkett, Mrs. Pay Bradley, Mrs. Lois Maxwell.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

M:13-10-4

Census, Land, Tax and Will Records of Montgomery County.  
Martz, Ralph Fraley. Two Centuries of Clarksburg, unpublished paper  
at Montgomery County Historical Society Library.  
Hopkins G.M. Atlas of Fifteen Miles Around Washington Including the County  
of Montgomery (Philadelphia: 1879. reprinted by the Montgomery County  
Historical Society, 1975)  
CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .294 acres

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

### LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Kevin J. Parker

ORGANIZATION

Sugarloaf Regional Trails

STREET & NUMBER

Box 87

CITY OR TOWN

Dickerson

Candy Reed

Architectural Description

DATE

Sept. 1979

TELEPHONE

926-4510

STATE

Maryland 20753

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

the presence of a fairly substantial building. Unfortunately, however, John Clark dropped from the tax lists after 1800 and William Willson did not distinguish his lots by name until the 1830s.

In the 1834 assessment for Clarksburg, however, William Willson had three substantially improved lots in the town (numbered #4, #5, and #6) and worth \$738, \$615 and \$205 respectively. These figures are the same in the 1840 assessment but there was a change in 1842. For the first time lot #6 was called the "store house" and has jumped in value from \$205 to \$1,000. This value listing for lot #6 remained the same through the 1860 assessment.<sup>12</sup> After the Civil War and William Willson's death, the division of his property among many heirs makes it difficult to further trace the value of the store.<sup>13</sup>

The Willson store is still in fair condition and according to the present owners, structurally sound. If restored, it could once again serve as a center for the Clarksburg community and provide a visible link with the town's past.

#### FOOTNOTES:

- 1 Martz, Ralph Fraley. Two Centuries of Clarksburg. unpub-  
lished paper at Montgomery County Historical Society Library.
- 2 Montgomery County Land Records, 1/130 (Feb. 9, 1803).
- 3 Montgomery County Wills, HCA 19/231. (Jan. 12, 1917).
- 4 1850 Census. Leonidas Willson listed as "merchant".
- 5 Hopkins, G.M. Atlas of Fifteen Miles Around Washington Including  
the County of Montgomery (Philadelphia: 1879. reprinted by  
the Montgomery County Historical Society, 1975) p. 28 store  
shown as belonging to L. Willson and Mary Waters.
- 6 Interview with Mrs. Doody Burkett, local resident, 8/2/79.
- 7 Land Records of Montgomery County, Md. JA 42/96 (12/5/1893).
- 8 Ibid., 246/405 (11/2/1914).
- 9 Ibid., 304/26 (March 3, 1921); 778/342 (February 26, 1940).
- 10 Interview with Mrs. Loise Maxwell, former local resident, 8/12/79.
- 11 Montgomery County Tax Assessment Records, 1793.
- 12 Tax Assessments, 1844, 1846, 1850 and 1860.
- 13 Wills. JWS 1/46 (October 18, 1851).

# NOTICES.

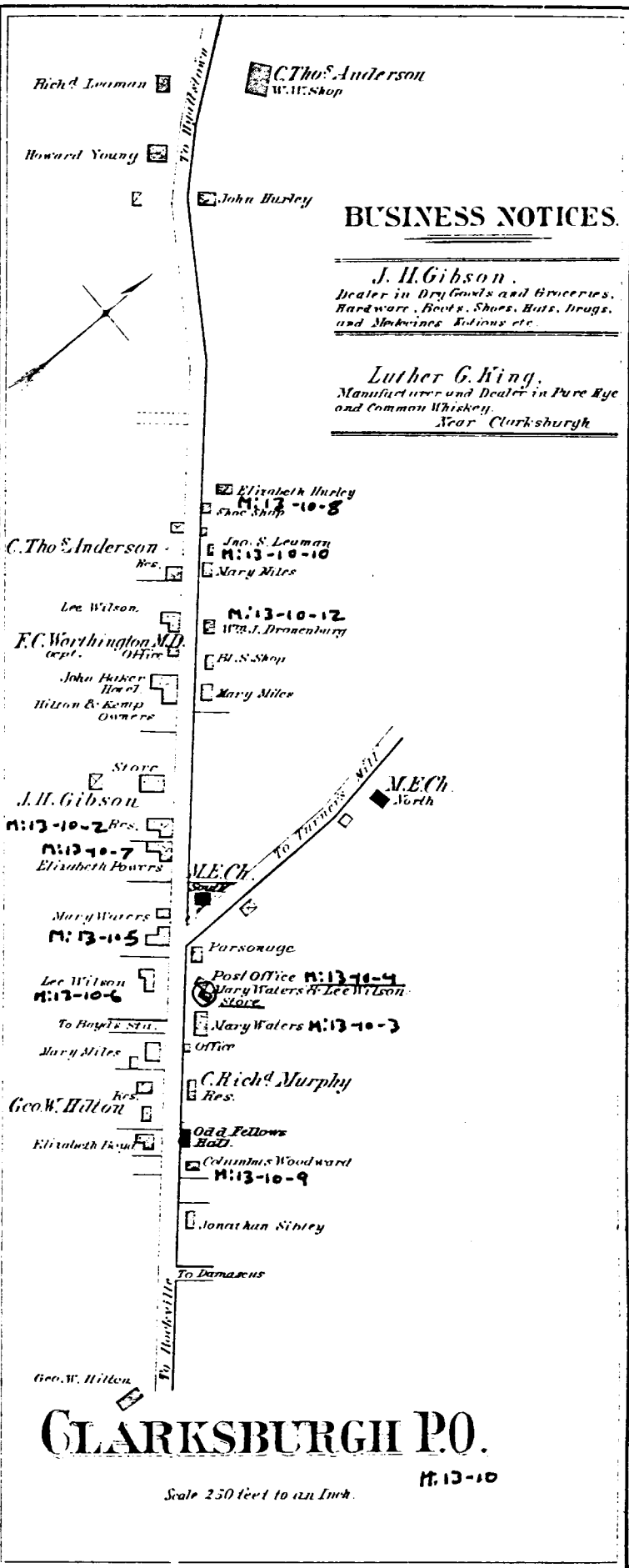
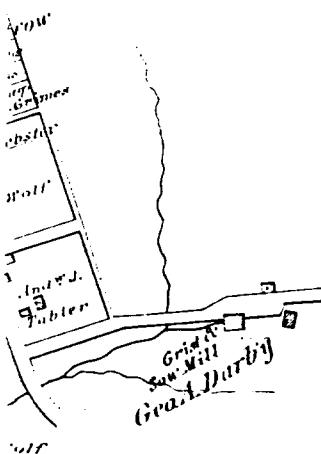
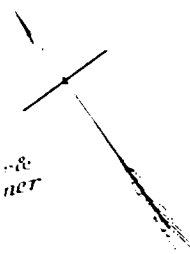
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ROW,  
at Fancy Goods, Dry  
ware, Books, Stoves, etc.

# TOWN P.O.

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M: 13-10-4  
Willson Stone

660

M: 13-10  
↓

659

M: 13-10-8

M: 13-10-10

M: 13-10-12

BM

658

Clarksburg

M: 13-10-2

M: 13-10-7

M: 13-10-5

M: 13-10-6

M: 13-10-4

M: 13-10-3

M: 13-10-9

M: 13-10-11

M: 13-52

Clarksburg  
Sch

GERMANTOWN  
ROAD, 1953



Attachment Sheet B  
Willson Store

M: 13/10/4  
Magi #



Willson Store, 13/10  
Facade: West  
Taken by: Kevin Parker, 1979

LEVI PRICE. GEN. MDSE.  
CLARKSBURG, MD



Views of clarksburg md.  
from collection of  
pictures of John Henry W. Md  
~~13-50~~  
~~M-13-10-17~~  
M:13-10-4